

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spread illuminating apparatus of side light type, comprising:
  - a light conductive plate defining a side surface as a light entrance surface, a first major surface as a light exit surface, and a second major surface opposite to the first major surface;
  - a plurality of point light sources disposed at the side surface of the light conductive plate, wherein lights emitted from the point light sources are introduced into the light conductive plate from the side surface and exit out the light conductive plate from the first major surface;
  - a light reflecting sheet disposed at at least one of the first major surface and the second major surface so as to cover a portion of the light conductive plate located close to the side surface and also the point light sources; and
  - a plurality of light diffusing portions disposed at the light reflecting sheet and located so as to cover the point light sources, respectively.
2. A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the light diffusing portions are each constituted by a prism array.
3. A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein ridge lines of prisms constituting the prism array extend orthogonally to the side surface of the light conductive plate.
4. A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein apexes of prisms constituting the prism array point toward the first major surface of the light conductive plate.
5. A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the light diffusing portions are each constituted by a light diffusive member.